

GOD IS A RESTORER

By: Diane Patterson Onuntuei
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God truly loves mankind, his very own creation, and he is “not willing that any should perish . . . ” (2 Pet. 3:9). In other words, he wants to restore man to that glorious state that he was in before Adam and Eve committed that great sin in the Garden of Eden. We certainly can identify with the earthly father who strives to provide the best for his children and is usually willing to go to great lengths to make a good life for them and leave them with an inheritance. Our Heavenly Father, who is greater than any earthly father, has given the gift of eternity by sacrificing his own son’s life on Calvary’s cross. Therein, God has “ . . . delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Col. 1:13). This redemptive gift of God is for all who believes on Jesus name.



Man needs to be restored from his fallen state. If we are not willing to be restored, then Jesus’ blood was shed for nothing. In the Holy Bible, Isaiah proclaimed “ . . . We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags” (Is. 64:6 NLT). To further illuminate restoration let us use the example of an old piece of raggedy furniture, that doesn’t look like much or has any value, which appears to be ready for disposal. Despite its’ condition, if that old useless piece of furniture is given to a restorer to fix, it can look better with the proper treatment than it did before it was new. Likewise, God seeing the beginning from the end can take any messed up life and make it polished, durable and usable, if one will allow him to use them. God is the potter and we are the clay, may God continue to mold and shape us into his glorious image.

To understand better what happens when someone is restored to God, let’s take a closer look at the word restorer. Restorer, according to the Meredith Dictionary, means: “to renew, rebuild . . . ” the dictionary further indicates that its synonyms include words like “freshen, recharge, recreate, refresh, regenerate, rejuvenate, repair, resuscitate, revitalize, revive, revivify”. When one accepts Jesus into their life they will be in right standings with the Heavenly Father and will no longer be a slave to sin; but will be restored in a wondrous and magnificent way. The Holy Bible indicates that “ . . . if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all

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things are become new” (II Cor. 5:17). If one has never encountered the newness of Christ in their life then it can start now by inviting him into his/her heart. To learn more about accepting Jesus read Romans 10:9-10.

When God made man he said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . .” (Gen. 1:26). The reason why our Heavenly Father made us like him is because he expects

us to mimic his behavior. He desires that we help others to find a way to righteousness, so they too can be restored to love him and be delivered from sin. In other words, God wants us to be his partner and an extension of his love on earth. However, God doesn’t want us to be a “silent” partner. Matthew 5:16 says: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”. In order to see our good works we must seek God’s will (by reading his words) to determine what he wants us to do.

The Bible indicates that the children of God will be a “ . . . restorer of paths to dwell in” (Is. 58:12). Jesus reaffirms Isaiah’s statement when he told his disciples that “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12). What did Jesus do on earth besides die for our sins and return to heaven? “Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people” (Matt. 9:35).

God has equipped us with the necessary skills and empowers us by his Holy Spirit to do his work and his will. God’s concern is building his church! He wants to use us to build his church (i.e. bringing people closer to him) and not just be concerned with our own little lives. God is a restorer; therefore he wants us to restore his church and to be diligent in building up God’s house first. Luke 12:29-31 instructs us: “ . . . seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you”.

God stands ready to bless us as indicated in the above scripture when it said: “ . . . all things shall be added to you”. Notwithstanding, there is something that we must do in order to receive those blessings. Specifically, we must come to him and build his church. God uses man to accomplish his purposes

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here on earth, but if man refuses to serve him as he set forth to do, he cannot release his blessings on him. God wants us to be blessed; 3 John 1:2 says “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”.

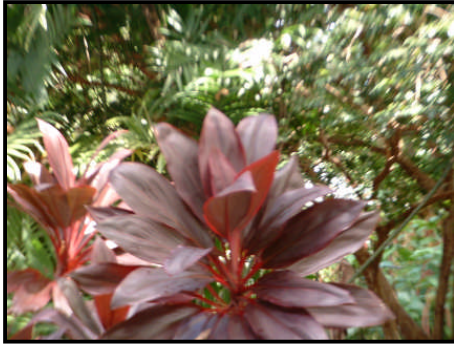


According to the Holy Bible, God spoke to the prophet Haggai, to tell king Zerubbabel: “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: The people are saying, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.’ Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: “Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Look at what’s happening to you!” (Hag. 1:2-5 NTL). In this passage, everyone was concerned about fixing up his/her own house, while the house of God was not built and God was not pleased with his or her lack of compassion toward his house.

The book of Haggai further explains that because the people ignored God he did not bless them or their land; God explained: “You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses. It’s because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. I have called for a drought on your fields and hills—a drought to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a drought to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get”.” (Hag. 1:9-11 NTL). As the story continues God instructed the prophet Haggai to tell the King to have the people to take wood and build up the house of God. King Zerubbabel complied with God’s wishes and in return God blessed and restored his people.

We should learn from the above situation that God desires to be first and must be put first in our lives. Specifically, we should not get so caught up in our own little affairs and forget about the affairs of God. Perhaps this is why God is not blessing our nation like he did when our forefathers openly professed him. God wants to have a great church for people to come to and be restored. He wants to use your physical body, which can be regarded as a walking church, to help accomplish his missions. Romans 12:1 said “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service”. God prepared a body for Jesus, and Jesus went about doing the will of his father. God expects his people to display the same character as Jesus did, the son of man.

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God wants to recruit you into his army and have you march to his drumbeat, similar to the military when it is recruiting. Comparatively speaking, In God's house we are enlisted into his service when we become "Born Again". Like the military, you have to go through basic training and your training in God starts with: " . . . be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

In the military, if a soldier does not perform his/her duties as commanded, they will be penalized which could ultimately result in a dishonorable discharge. On the other hand, if one stays in the military and performs their duties as are expected they will come out at an appointed time with full honors and benefits, because he/she has successfully passed basic training, served their country and fulfilled the call of duty.

Similarly, while we are in God's service we are continuously learning how to take his instructions and follow-up on his commandments. And when our service is through, we will have to give account for the usefulness of our time in his service. There will be that great day when we will meet God to get our discharge papers; and based on our service to him he will either say: "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" or he will say " . . . cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:23 & 30).

You may say to yourself: "I can't build a church" and that may well be true; but there are many things that someone can do in the house of God to help make it run well. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness" (Rom 12:4-8). Whatever we do in God's house let us " . . . do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:23).

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In order to get God's best and to represent him well, we have to learn to be grateful; in all things " . . . with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6). Be mindful to thank God for what he has already done for you. For example, if someone gives you a gift out of the goodness of his/her own heart and you never express your thanks, more than likely that person will give you less gifts because you seem ungrateful.



Don't be a complainer! In Old Testament Book of Numbers Chapter 14 it narrates about the people that Moses were leading in the wilderness, after they were delivered from Egypt, and how they complained to God instead of being grateful. God was not happy with their behavior therefore, the complainers died without making it out of the wilderness.

If you want to be a restorer like your Heavenly Father, you have to be willing to work for him so that others can find his peace and love, for God is a God of love. Many times it will require a sacrifice, but God releases blessings on the persons that diligently work for him. Matthew 25:29 says: "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath".

Don't hesitate for work for God; just draw closer to him and he will breathe on you and share his heavenly missions with you. You may say, you don't know what to do? Well, you can start by seeking, him for the bible says "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matt. 7:7-8).

Before you start your day and when you start a new project "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6). How do we seek him? We seek him through prayer and the daily reading of the Holy Bible. What works for some, as a supplement to bible reading, is to buy CDs or DVDs of the Bible and listen to them while driving, getting up, going to bed or whenever one decides. Occupy yourself with God's work and share his love, then it will be said of you that: "they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in" (Is. 58:12).